



**Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona**

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TWO MEXICAN OFFICIALS CHARGED WITH BRIBING A FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

TUCSON, Ariz. – A complaint was issued here today in U.S. District Court charging Ramon Robles-Cota, 29, Director of Public Safety for the City of Sonoyta, Sonora, Mexico, and Sonoyta Police Officer Julio Cesar Lozano-Lopez, 28, both of Sonoyta, Sonora, Mexico, with bribery of a federal law enforcement officer and drug violations.

The criminal complaint charges Robles-Cota and Lozano-Lopez, with violating Title 18, U.S. Code, Sections 201(b)(1)(C) and 2, Bribery of a Public Official and Aiding and Abetting, and Title 21, U.S. Code, Sections 846, 841(a)(1) and (b)(1)(A)(vii), Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute 1,000 kilograms or more of Marijuana.

U.S. Attorney Paul Charlton stated that "At it's root, corruption begins with the belief that public servants can be bought. This case serves notice on those who hold that belief that we are watching them and will vigorously prosecute them." Kent Johansson, interim special-agent-in-charge of the ICE Office in Phoenix said that "this is a serious incident which underscores the importance of our focus on ensuring the integrity of our borders." Roland Mignone, Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Phoenix FBI, added that "the FBI remains committed to work with our federal law enforcement partners to deter and detect public corruption, wherever it occurs."

A conviction for bribery carries a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine or both. A conviction for the drug charge carries a maximum penalty of life in prison, a \$4 million fine or both. A criminal complaint is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the complaint was conducted by the Department of Homeland Security Office of the Inspector General (DHS-OIG), U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the FBI. The prosecution is being handled by Mary Sue Feldmeier, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

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